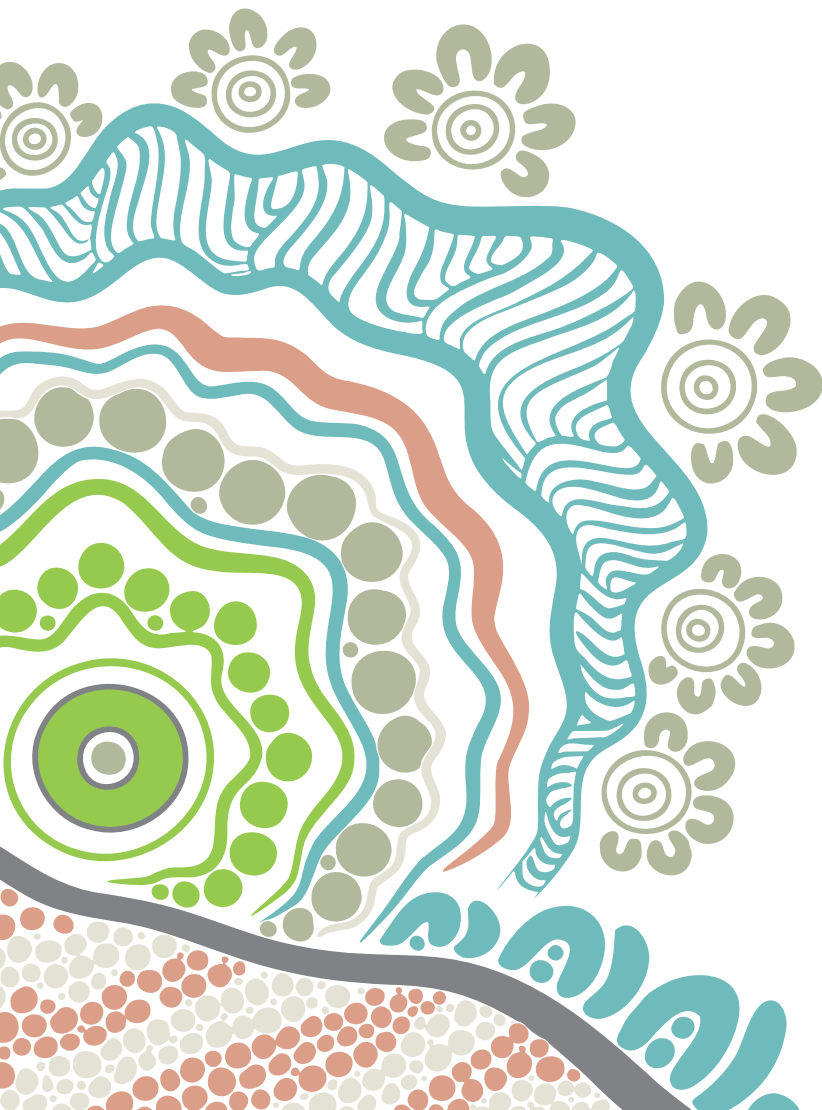


EASY READ



Youth detention centres

Cleveland Youth Detention Centre 2024 inspection



QUEENSLAND
OMBUDSMAN

Inspector of
Detention Services

What we did



We **inspected** Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in October 2023.

Inspected means we looked at what is happening at the youth detention centre.



We wanted to find out if the centre:

- has enough staff
- is clean
- gives the children good health care
- lets the children go to school
- lets the children play sport and games.

We also looked at when the centre locks children in their rooms.



We talked to people and took photographs.

We talked to:

- staff at the centre
- children at the centre
- people who work in the community
- people who work for the government.



We looked at reports about the centre.

About the centre



Cleveland Youth Detention Centre is in Townsville.

The centre can hold about 100 children.



Most children at the centre are on **remand**.

Remand means the children are at the centre while they wait to go to court.

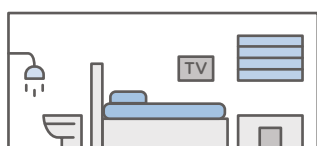


Most children at the centre are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.



The centre has:

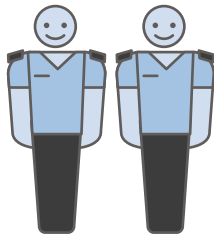
- a medical centre
- a school
- places to play sport and games.



Each child has a room with a:

- bed
- desk
- chair
- bathroom
- window
- television.

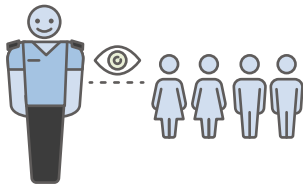
What we found



If there are enough staff, the children go to school, play sport, and learn new things.

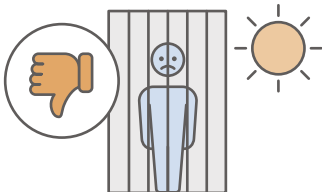


Children are locked in their rooms every night from 7:30 pm until 7:30 am. This is the time when they sleep.



The centre does not have enough staff.

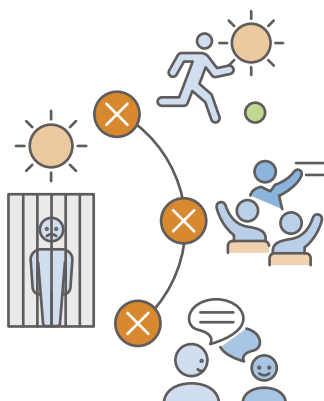
The rules say the centre needs 1 person to look after 4 children.



When there are not enough staff, children are put in **separation**.

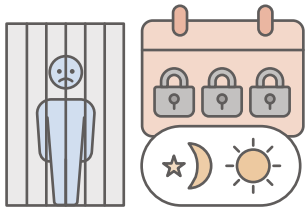
Separation is when children are locked in their rooms alone in the day time.

Being locked in their rooms in the day time is bad for children.

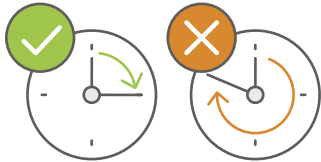


When children are locked in their rooms:

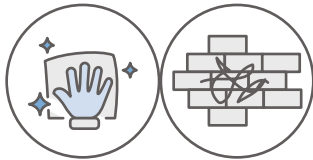
- they cannot play sport and go to school
- they cannot learn how to behave better
- they can only talk to people through their door or with an intercom.



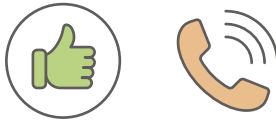
Sometimes, children are locked in their rooms for many days.



The rules say staff should check children every 15 minutes to make sure they are OK.



The centre is clean and tidy.
But the centre has a lot of graffiti.



Children can make phone calls.



Children get good health care.



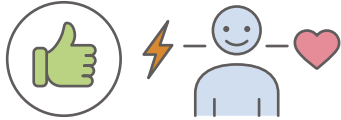
Children do not go to school every day.
They cannot go to school if they are locked in their rooms.



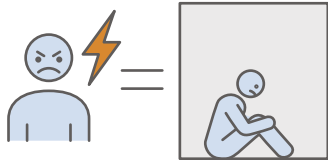
Children can get visits from their family and friends.



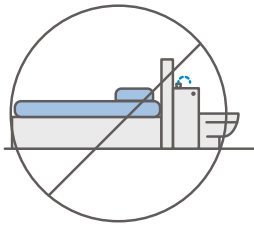
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children do not get enough cultural support.



The centre tries to teach children to behave better.

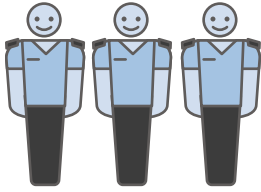


If a child behaves badly, they might be locked in a small room.

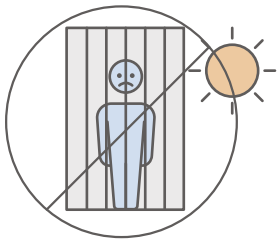


The small room does not have a toilet, running water, a bed or a seat.

What we think should happen



The centre needs more staff.



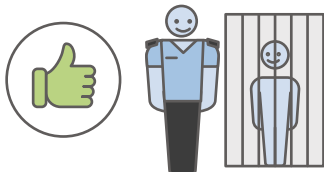
The law should change about how separation happens.

Children should not be locked in their rooms in the day time.



Every day, children should have:

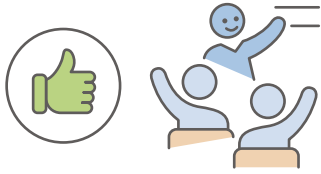
- 10 hours when they can leave their rooms
- 2 hours outside.



Staff should check children often to make sure they are OK.



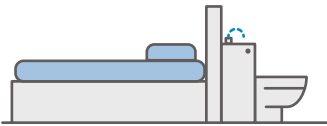
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children should have cultural support.



Children should go to school more often.



If children are locked in their rooms, they should still be able to talk to people. A psychologist can check that the children are OK.



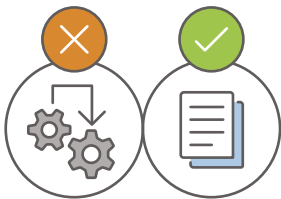
The small rooms used when children arrive at the centre and when they behave badly should have a toilet, a bed or seat, and running water.

What happens next

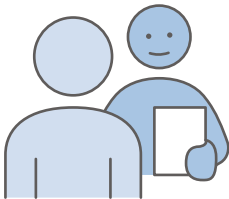


We wrote a report about what we saw at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre.

This is a summary of the report.



We can't make changes at the centre. But our report is about the things that should change.



We gave our report to Youth Justice and the Queensland Parliament.

They will use our report to decide whether to change things at the centre.



We have put the report on our website.

You can ask for a copy of the report.



We will inspect Cleveland Youth Detention Centre every year.

Who we are



We are a team of people who inspect detention services in Queensland.



We want youth detention centres to be **humane** places.

Humane means people are treated the right way.



You can read more about us.

Ask for a copy of our *Easy Read Inspector of Detention Services – What we do*.

It is on our website.

How to contact us

We are a special team of the Queensland Ombudsman.



Phone

07 3005 7000



Mail

GPO Box 3314
Brisbane
Queensland 4001



Interpreter

131 450



Speak & Listen

1300 555 727



Website

www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au



Email

ombudsman@ombudsman.qld.gov.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land throughout Queensland and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This Easy Read document is a cut down version of the full report, *Cleveland Youth Detention Centre inspection report: Focus on separation due to staff shortages*. It does not tell everything that we do. It is a way to help more people find out about what we do. Our website tells you more.

